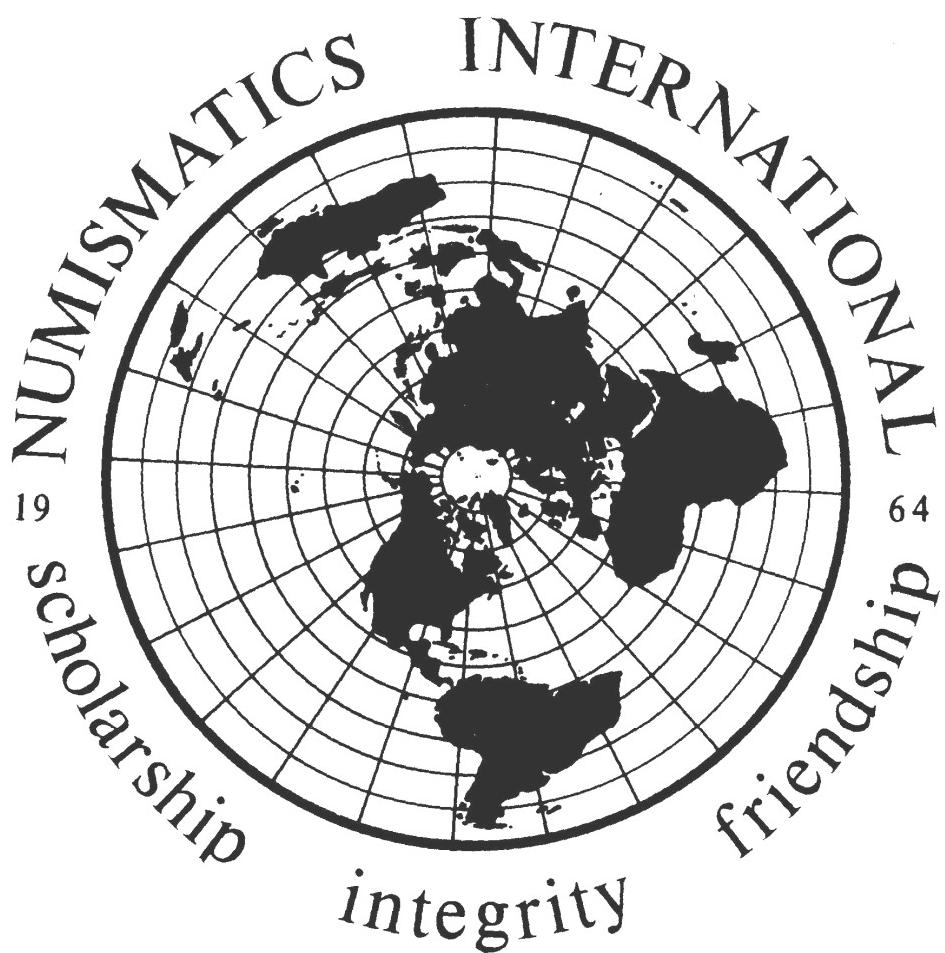


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Numismatics International Bulletin

Volume 42

May 2007

Number 5

From the Editor's Desk.....	97
Donations Report.....	107
Bill Mullan	
<i>The Coins of the Deutsche Demokratische Republik.....</i>	98
Mark McMenamin	
<i>A New Carthaginian Coin from the Second Punic War.....</i>	106
Yuichi Nishikawa	
<i>Japan - Local Coins: Gold and Silver Coins Minted by Local Lords.....</i>	108
Cartagena of the Indies, or Mint of Cuenca?.....	110
Herman Blanton	
<i>Frederick V Elector Palatine and Elizabeth Stuart.....</i>	112
Howard L. Ford	
<i>English Coin Types: A Continuing Series, The Tudor Testoons.....</i>	114
<i>Ariadne: The Last and First Empress.....</i>	116
<i>Brass and Bronze.....</i>	116
Crossword Puzzle.....	117
Member Notices.....	118

NI

As I prepare this month's *Bulletin* the spring season is just beginning. The winter season of international auctions is over and the spring auctions are approaching. If you are actively collecting, this is a good time of year for hunting. Good luck.

By now readers of our bulletins should all know who won last year's article contest. I hope the announcement encourages you to write for the *Bulletin*. My backlog of articles has grown a small amount since the time I began the editing job. Thank you. But it still is short of where it should be.

This month's subject matter is a bit lighter, with some satire (within Bill Mullan's article) and with a crossword puzzle for your amusement. The "Attribution Assistance Request" from the March issue was well addressed by the membership; see two of the responses on the Member Notice pages. Mark McMenamin reports a discovery coin and we have an interesting short reprint from the *Gaceta Numismatica*, published by the Spanish Numismatic Society, dealing with the discovery and attribution process of shipwreck salvaged coins.

The donations report includes those monies received with dues payments since the last report. We received various other contributions also, which are appreciated and acknowledged, even though not listed in this report. Thank you all.

Herman Blanton

NI

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The Coins of the *Deutsche Demokratische Republik*

Bill Mullan NI #1040

Introduction

About Catalogs

I apologize in advance to those of you who know the value of coins without the help of a catalog. I have learned over the years that the catalogs are often skewed one way or another. This article relies on information found in the book *Standard Catalog of World Coins*, by Chester Krause and Clifford Mishler. I trust that using the same book through many editions will let me track prices as I go.

In the beginning, about 1965, all I knew was R.S. Yeoman's *A Catalog of Modern World Coins* (the Brown Book). Wayte Raymond and Robert Friedberg were out there somewhere but Yeoman was my man. The sixth edition, copyright 1964, was the first to come my way; and I still have my copy with check marks next to the coins I had acquired and notes on the margins of some pages about what I still needed.

In 1966 the Brown Book's coverage cut off at 1950 and *Current Coins of the World* (the White Book) was published as a follow-on. It covered all of the new issues and overlapped the coverage of the Brown Book by including coins back to the Second World War. This overlap is a good thing; KM please note. The contents of the Brown Book were then frozen except for new discoveries and price adjustments. From then on all of the action was in the White Book that was published in at least 11 more editions.

After a while I began to encounter coins that Yeoman didn't cover. His books began with 1850, so W.D. Craig's book covering the years 1750-1850 was the next addition to my library. The first edition came out in 1966. Next were added a whole shelf full of specialized books that included mintages so I could deal with the rarity factor. In 1972 the first edition of *Standard Catalog of World Coins* hit the market. It was for me most welcome. In one volume it combined all of the information for the years 1850 to 1970 contained in most of the references I had been using up to that time. I will be critical of the KM catalog in this article but I don't want to give the impression that I don't appreciate it. The book is useful to me on a daily basis; I just wish it were perfect!

Ever faithful to my numismatic roots I continued to buy Yeoman's books. The last Brown Book I have is the 12th edition dated 1978. The demise of the Yeoman type of book is a shame because I know of no good yet affordable catalog for children or the adult beginner. KM's *Collecting World Coins*, priced at about \$25 is the only such book available. It throws the inexperienced collector into all the mintage and grading complications that youngsters, at least, should not have to contend with.

About the Project

I do not claim to be a German coin expert. As a matter of fact I am more of an amasser of coins than a numismatist. However, the coins of the Democratic Republic of Germany (GDR) have attracted my attention because the series is of considerable length and it is now complete. Once I got into the subject some fascinating questions arose. If ever these questions are to be answered, now is the time because some of the people who worked in the Berlin mint and who made decisions concerning these coins are still alive, perhaps still working in that mint. I invite the people who know the facts to correct my woolly-headed conjectures.

One such question comes immediately to mind. For the most part "The Wall" followed the boundaries of Berlin. It deviated from that course at the Western edge of the city apparently enclosing some of the British Sector. Why was that? See the map.

Now that almost two decades have passed since the last coin of the GDR was struck a survey of these coins seems appropriate. Among other things I hope to include little biographies of the people honored in the series and conjecture about why they were picked. Equally as interesting is why some others were not. All the while we are looking at the coins of the GDR we will be casting a glance at the FDR (Federal Republic of Germany) to see how the two Germanys differed in the treatment of their coins.

It is my intention to cover all the coins in a series of articles. The first, about trade coins, accompanies this prologue. The commemoratives will be the subject of future articles which hopefully will be published in the *NI Bulletin* as I complete them.

When I refer to the Democratic Republic of Germany by initials I have used the form GDR, the initials of the English translation of Deutsche Demokratische Republik rather than DDR as it appears on the coins. This seems to be the preference of the authors of the books I have used as references and is in keeping with my tendency to think of the Soviet Union as USSR rather than CCCP which appears on their coins.

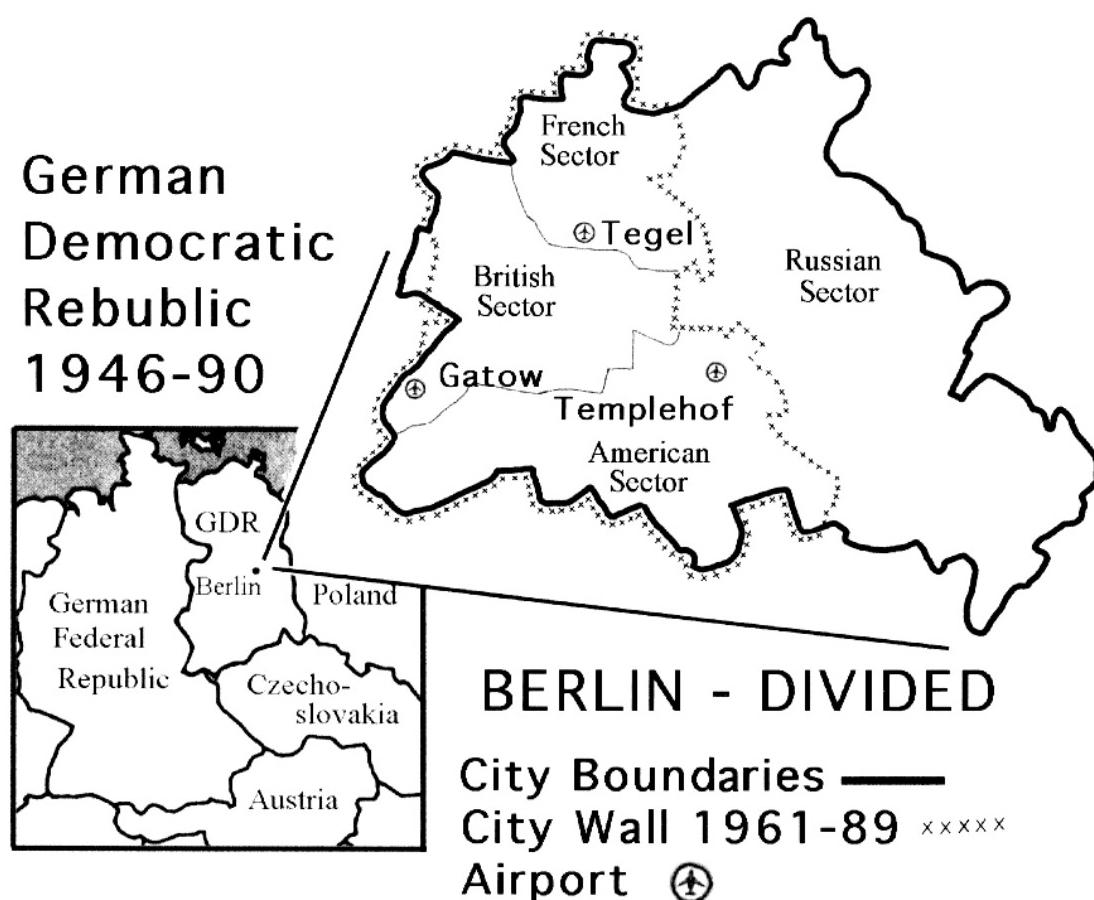
Some Background: The Beginning and End of East Germany

On the 7th of May 1945 Russia, France, Great Britain, and the United States, prepared to govern a defeated Germany in accordance with the agreements reached at Yalta and Potsdam. Their plan was to divide the country as well as the city of Berlin into separate zones which would be governed even-handedly by the four major powers, overseen by a central control commission. The city of Berlin was located entirely within the Russian Zone, but access by land, water, and air was guaranteed by the governing treaty.

From the first the Allies found it difficult to deal with the Russians. The Russian plan was to make the allied occupation of Berlin so bothersome that they would pack up and leave the defeated Germans to their fate at the hands of the Russians.

Germany was a devastated land. While the money of Germany remained plentiful it was virtually worthless. The Western Allies and the USSR brought with their conquering armies their own forms of military money but its use by the general public was forbidden. Uncertainty about the currency helped bring about a black market, kept food and other merchandise off of the legitimate market, discouraged investment and dashed the hopes of the people for a return to a normal life. It was mostly barter that kept the people from starving, for neither East nor West Germany, had a viable currency of its own. When describing this time, most historians agree that the cigarette was the most acceptable medium of exchange.

To further their plan, Russia began in March of 1948 to make land communication between the Allied zones of occupied Germany and the city of Berlin more difficult. While the railroads, autobahns and canals remained open, the Russians slowed traffic by introducing regulations that brought everything to a halt for hours at a time. At that time, the people of West Berlin could still travel into the nearby zone of East Germany that surrounded the city. Both nations profited by the easy exchange of goods and services this arrangement afforded.



When the Allies issued a new currency for their zones of Germany, Russia replied by issuing money for their zone of influence (for coins see Table 1), and shut down all land and water communication between the Western controlled zones of Germany and Berlin. It was not until September of 1949 that the allies merged the French, British, and American Sectors of Germany into what would become the Federal Republic of Germany on May 5, 1955.

	GDR (1948-50)		W. Germany (1948-9)	
	Catalog	Mintage	Catalog	Mintage
One Pfennig	KM #1	298,200,000	KM #A101	586,081,000
Five Pfennig	KM #2	205,072,000	KM #102	252,441,000
Ten Pfennig	KM #3	232,537,000	KM #103	498,518,000
Fifty Pfennig	KM #4	67,703,000	KM #104	152,453,000
Total pieces		803,512,000		1,489,493,000

Table 1

For insight into the origins of the design of type one coins, see below.

A 1,000 YEAR OLD COIN OF THE GDR

This aluminum coin dated 948 is most likely a precursor of GDR KM #1. "Deutschland" in the legend suggests that it is from Germany and thus from the reign of Otto the Great (AD 912-73). Otto spent most of his rule trying to bring order to Germany and disorder to the Slavs who had a nasty habit of invading from the East. Since it is highly unlikely that the Germans of the time knew anything about aluminum, which was discovered much later (in 1827), this coin may have been struck on a crude planchet made from the wreckage of aircraft shot down during some border unpleasantness. A bit of collaborating evidence can be seen in a wall mural located in a castle of the period that shows what appears to be the remains of a bi-plane studded with arrows or short lances. The absence of a mint mark indicates that the coin was struck in Philadelphia or one of its northern suburbs.



On second thought it may be a contemporary counterfeit of the extraordinary popular "denier," also known as the "penny," first struck by Pepin and introduced by Charlemagne into the rest of the world (then called the European Common Market). The counterfeiter purposely misspelled "penny" to avoid the death penalty that was all the rage in the 900s.

It is surprising that each of the occupiers produced coinage in 1948 before either of the competing federations was officially declared. The money of the West was issued by the newly organized central bank, the Bank Deutscher Lander, so strictly speaking it was not issued in the name of the country. East German money, on the other hand, was issued in the name of all Germany. It was the fond hope of the Russians that when the Allies became discouraged they would quit and the government in the East would be extended to all of Berlin and eventually to all of Germany.

The Allies answered the Russian isolation of Berlin by beginning to supply the city by air. Haltingly at first but with ever-increasing vigor the airlift did what it had to do. (Lest his name be lost for future generations, the man largely responsible for organizing the airlift and making it work was a U.S. Air Force general, William H. Turner). For fifteen months the Berlin airlift supplied the people of that city with food and fuel, thus thwarting the Russians' plan and confirming the division of Germany into two countries. At its peak the Allies moved into Berlin an average of 7,845 tons of cargo per day. The record for a single day was set on Easter Sunday 1949 when over 13,000 tons came in. Not a huge load for ships, just one medium sized freighter load, but a prodigious amount to move by airplane. In the process some 73 Allied airmen as well as 5 Germans on the ground lost their lives.

Another remarkable part of the airlift is the fact that not only were landing strips on both Gatow and Templehof airports extended while planes continued to use them, but a third airport, Tegel, was built on the site of the former Wehrmacht training grounds. Since the amount of cement needed for this work could not be brought in by air, 17,000 citizens of Berlin recovered 10,000,000 bricks from the rubble of the city and laid a 24 inch deep foundation for a landing strip over a mile long.

After the Allies had begun to consolidate their zones in the west of Germany, the Russians instituted in eastern Germany a new government under the name of the German Democratic Republic (GDR). It came into being on October 11, 1949. Russia tried to maintain the myth that the GDR was truly a German nation by keeping Russian involvement in the new republic as inconspicuous as conditions permitted. In fact, the USSR had a firm hand on everything that went on in East Germany. The Allies introduced new currency in the name of the Bundesrepublik Deutschland in 1950, and East Germany issued new currency in 1952, still in the name of all Deutschland (TYPE TWO coinage). It was not until 1956 that a coin, the one mark with catalog number KM #12, was issued in the name of the German Democratic Republic, the first of the TYPE THREE coins. It was followed by minor coins with the same design.

As explained earlier, these coins will be the subject of an article that will follow this one in good time.



Figure 1

The relative prosperity of the two Germanys may be surmised by comparing the coin production of the two. In the division of the German Third Reich the East got about 30% of the population and land area. At the beginning, in 1948/49, the East minted about 30% of the total coins minted by both Germanys. However, the East minted only 12.7% of the total of the coins shown in the table below, and that compares only the denominations that both countries struck. The West German two pfennig, fifty pfennig, and one mark coins, not struck by the East, and denominations not included in the above calculation, almost equaled the production of the East. See Table 2.

	GDR (1952-53)			W. Germany (1950)	
	Catalog	Mintage		Catalog	Mintage
One Pfennig	KM #5	511,387,000		KM #105	2,970,966,000
Two Pfennig				KM #106	100,908,000
Five Pfennig	KM #6	207,080,000		KM #107	1,100,617,000
Ten Pfennig	KM #7	122,036,000		KM #108	1,698,046,000
Fifty Pfennig				KM #109.1	413,402,000
One Mark				KM #110	230,959,000
Total pieces		840,503,000			6,514,898,000

Table 2

The two Germanys struggled along side by side with the East taking ever more stringent measures to keep their population under control until 1961, when the infamous wall was constructed. The wall zigzagged through the city of Berlin, following the border of the Russian zone, but it also extended around the Allied zones, cutting off the people of East Germany from contact with the people of West Berlin. It remained a constant reminder of the separation of the two Berlins until it finally came down in 1989.

The first cracks became apparent when Mikhail Gorbachev announced his policies of *Glasnost* (Openness) and *Perestroika* (Reorganization) in Russia. The leaders of East Germany, whose economy was better than that of Russia, did not feel that the GDR had any need for these new policies and resisted them. *Glasnost* opened the borders with their neighbors, however, and soon East Germans who took vacation trips to Prague didn't come back. By July 1989 up to 25,000 of them were "homesteading" in Budapest and Prague. While the GDR applied pressure on Czechoslovakia and Hungary to return the truants, controls at the Austrian border were relaxed and large numbers of East Germans began to make their way to the West via that route. Both Czechoslovakia and Hungary continued to complain about the burden this traffic imposed on them, so in October of 1989 Erich Honecker, then head of the ruling party of the GDR, came up with what he thought was a solution.

During the 1980's the GDR had been ridding itself of malcontents and agitators by expelling them from the country. Between the years 1950 and 1989 as many as 15,000 East Germans made it to the West each year, many of them expelled by the GDR. What Honecker planned to do was to use that method to move people from Prague to the West and humiliate them in the process. Around 12,000 of those that had fled to Prague were placed on sealed railroad cars that took them to West Germany via East Germany. While onboard the railcars their GDR papers were taken away, and it was announced that they had been declared "unwanted expellees," who were being thrown out of the country.

Instead of heaping shame on these unfortunates, the people of East Germany gathered in railroad stations and along the railway right of way waving to them and cheering as they passed by. Some even tried to force their way into the cars and had to be repelled by armed soldiers.

When these evacuees arrived in the West they littered the train platforms with East German coins and paper money they felt was then worthless. I remember watching television pictures of workmen with push-brooms sweeping up piles of this money and wondering at the time if some scarce late-date coins were in the rubbish they were clearing away.

The end of the wall came quickly. The fortieth anniversary of the founding of the German Democratic Republic was approaching. Large celebrations were planned and grand speeches were prepared. Activities associated with these preparations served in part to disguise the unrest among the populace. The flight of people to the West continued in ever-increasing numbers. Many of those who did not flee joined ever larger street protests in Berlin and other cities, especially Leipzig and Dresden. The pressure was too much for the government to resist. On November 9th the gates in the

wall were opened. Within hours 50,000 people had crossed over into West Berlin and celebrated their freedom to do so by partying long into the night. The dismantling of the wall started with the pecking of small hammers, then began in earnest with jack-hammers and cranes. Berlin was once more a united city.

The possibility of a reunited Germany made many of the other Europeans uneasy. But in the end, on September 12th 1990, the two Germanys were formally reunified and the Deutsche Demokratische Republik officially came to an end. There was also a great deal of debate concerning whether Berlin should once again become the capital of the united Germany. The answer to that question was yes, but for the time being most government offices remain in Bonn.

Sources

Maps

"East Germany" adapted from *Standard Catalog of World Coins*.

"Berlin-Divided" adapted from *Hammond's Atlas of World History*.

Faust's Metropolis: A History of Berlin, by Alexandra Richie. This is a history of Berlin from its beginnings to the present time. The author visited Berlin often during the time it was divided and relates first hand tales of what went on in both sections of the city. Much attention paid to art, movies, theater and social settings.

Exit - Voice Dynamics and the Collapse of East Germany, by Steven Pfaff. This is a scholarly book comparing the situation in East Germany to revolutionary behavior in other circumstances throughout the ages. The text is heavy going in many places, has detailed information about those protesting, those fleeing and those who stood by and watched.

Standard Catalog of World Coins by Krause and Mishler.

Standard Catalog of World Paper Money, by Pick.

To be continued...

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A New Carthaginian Coin from the Second Punic War

Mark McMenamin NI #2563

In my study of Phoenician coins and their countermarks¹ published in 2000, I reported a base metal coin from Carthage with a horse, star and Punic letter "a" on the reverse. This coin appears to be a previously unknown Punic coin sub-type (Figure 1). The coin is 19 millimeters in diameter, has a head of Tanit looking left on the obverse (poorly preserved), and on the reverse shows a standing horse looking back with a seven-rayed star above its back and a Punic letter below. The coin appears to have been clipped because it has an arcuate (arch-shaped) cut out of its edge.



Figure 1

The known coin most similar to this one was described (but not illustrated) by Sear² as Sear 6513. Sear 6513 is 22 millimeters in diameter and has the star and the horse looking back, but unlike the coin described here has the Punic letter "b" beneath the horse. Muller³ lists this same coin type as number 216, and reports a mass ranging from 8.5 to 4.1 grams in 21 examples from different collections. The coin reported here has a mass of 4.0 grams, and is thus smaller than is typical for the "b" coins. Stars are known to appear on Carthaginian bronze coins, and Acquaro⁴ lists them as appearing on coins numbered in his catalog 587-589 (seven-rayed stars with circular center), 787-789 (eight rays). Stars also appear in a long series (Acquaro 1525-1678) where an eight-rayed star is above a standing bull on the reverse. Acquaro 587-589 and Acquaro 787-789 are associated with a horse's head on the reverse rather than a standing horse.

¹ M. A. McMenamin, *Phoenician Coins and their Countermarks* (2000).

² D. R. Sear, *Greek Coins and their Values. Volume II. Asia and North Africa* (1979).

³ C. T. Falbe, J. Chr. Lindberg and L. Muller, *Numismatique de l'Ancienne Afrique. V. II.* (1860).

⁴ E. Acquaro, *Le Monete Puniche del Museo Nazionale di Cagliari, Catalogo* (1974).

Carthaginian bronze coins with a standing horse looking back on the reverse can be dated with reasonable accuracy because they are occasionally found over-struck on Syracusean coins of Hieron II (from the latter half of his reign, according to Jenkins and Lewis⁵). Interestingly, a coin of this general type (i.e., with a reverse image of a Carthaginian horse looking back) was reported from a hoard of coins on the island of Corvo in the Azores (Hoard XXIV of Jenkins and Lewis).

It seems reasonable to conclude that the coin described here was minted around the time of the Second Punic War (218-201 BC). We could speculate further that it represents the first in a series (with Punic "a" below the horse) that was followed by the Sear 6513/Muller II 216 coins (with Punic "b" below the horse). The seven-rayed star on the reverse could represent "*Thuban*," the name for the polestar (Polaris) in Phoenician maritime culture. This star, of course, was critical for Phoenician celestial navigation.

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Donations Report

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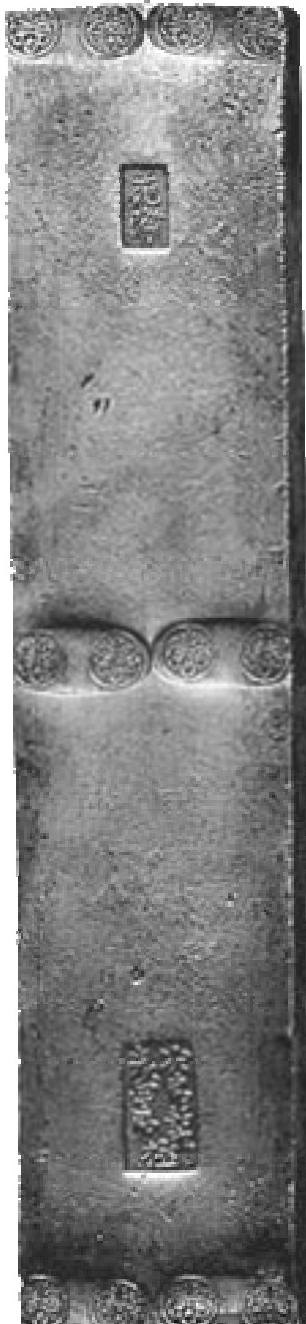
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⁵ G. K. Jenkins and R. B. Lewis, *Carthaginian Gold and Electrum Coins* (1963).

Japan

Local Coins: Gold and Silver Coins Minted by Local Lords
Yuichi Nishikawa, Institute for Monetary and Economic Studies, Bank of Japan

**Lord Maeda's
Local Silver Coin**



**Kaga Hanafuri
Hyakume-gin(silver)
Ca. 1620 AD**

**Lord Takeda's Local Gold Coins
Late 16th century AD**



Tsuyu Ichiryō-kin

Kichi Ichibu-kin

**Lord Uesugi's
Local Gold Coin**



**Tensyo Etsuza-kin
Late 16th century AD**

**Lord Satake's
Local Silver Coin**



**Dewa Kubota-gin
Early 17th century AD**

In the late Sengoku Period (16th century), demand for large denomination currency increased in line with the development of commerce and industry, as influential lords promoted trade by abolishing monopolistic guilds. Local feudal lords vigorously exploited gold and silver mines, minting their own coins from these metals to finance their military campaigns and secure remuneration for vassals in place of land. The resulting local coins were used for more than 150 years until the end of the 17th century, when gold and silver coins minted by the Tokugawa Shogunate began to circulate throughout the nation.

Japan was blessed with an abundant supply of gold and silver, and the introduction in 1533 of a refining technique called *haifuki* (the use of ash to remove lead from metals and refine metal quality) further expanded production. Gold and silver coins, which originally circulated in chunks called *nerikin* and *haifuki-gin*, respectively, were eventually melted down and shaped into bars or plates for convenient transportation and storage. Gold chunks were beaten into oval-shaped plates, which later became the prototype for *oban* and *koban*, while button-shaped silver haifuki-gin became slug-shaped silver bars that in the Edo Period evolved into *cho-gin*, a silver currency, and *kiri-gin*, a sliced-off portion of the slug.

The gold and silver content of local coins varied. As the circulation of local coins expanded, however, it became necessary to appraise and certify the quality or fineness of gold and silver coins. As a result, *kin'ya* (gold houses) and *gin'ya* (silver houses) emerged under the license of local feudal lords to engage in the transaction and exchange of gold and silver coins, appraising and certifying their quality. These *kin'ya* and *gin'ya* engraved their stamp on the coins that they certified, thus backing the general acceptability of the currency.

Some local gold coins, such as the *Koshu-kin* minted under Lord Takeda of Kai province (now Yamanashi Prefecture), were calculated in units of *ryo* (approximately 15g), *bu* (1/4 ryo), and *shu* (1/4 bu). It is believed that these currency units for gold were later used as a reference by the Tokugawa Shogunate when it established its unified currency system. The *Tensho Etsuza-kin* minted by Lord Uesugi and the *Kaga Hanafuri-gin* by Lord Maeda are also representative local coins of this period.

All images courtesy of Currency Museum, Institute for Monetary and Economic Studies, Bank of Japan.

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Member Notices, continued from page 118

Regarding the member notices on page 44. The 100 Dong 1997 UNICEF commemorative coin of Vietnam is listed and illustrated as Schoen #108 on page 1957 of the 35th edition of the *World Coin Catalogue (Weltmuenzkatalog)*. There is no reason to doubt the official status of this coin. It was manufactured with plain edge by the Hungarian State Mint.

Gerhard Schoen

NI

Cartagena of the Indies, or Mint of Cuenca?

Reprinted and translated from *Gaceta Numismática*, March 1981

The following was published as a commentary on pages 7-8 of the March 1981 edition of *Gaceta Numismática*, a publication of Asociación Numismática Española in Barcelona. I selected this article for reprint to give some insight as to how recovered shipwreck coins can increase our understanding of numismatics. This specific commentary discusses eight real coins previously attributed to Cuenca (Spain) but which today are classified as Cartagena of the Indies (Colombia). This ANE commentary was published before the "Treasures of the *Concepción*" auction by Henry Christensen in 1982. After the ANE text I have placed two images of Cartagena coins to illustrate the design and markings. The shipwreck mentioned was claimed by the Dominican Republic to be inside its territorial waters—*Ed.*

Under the pseudonym of LES, in issue No. 30 of the journal *Sabadell Numismático* a notice is published of a certain Henry Taylor, according to whom some eight real coins, which in Spain are classified as being from Cuenca, are actually from Cartagena of the Indies.

The truth of the matter is, there are some doubts about these coins. We refer to the "duros" (pieces of eight) of 1633 and 1634 with the initials C and E. From the way they were made we have always considered them as peninsular (Spain proper), but we ought not to forget that the first coins made in the New Kingdom of Granada were modeled after peninsular coins.

A fact to keep in the forefront, according to what we can glean from what LES writes, is that Mr. Taylor's coins appear to come from the wreck of the Spanish ship *Concepción*, sunk off the coast of Florida.

If this is so, it is almost irrefutable proof of the American provenance of these coins, since it seems most improbable that a Spanish ship off the coast of Florida should be carrying coins from Cuenca.

In addition, another item that inclines us toward the American origin, is the fact that a few years later, in 1651, the mint of Cuenca underwent a radical change, using the mint mark of the letter A within the letter C. Changes in mintmarks are very rare in Spanish numismatics and are therefore subject to suspicion.

On the other hand, the author LES commits an error when he asserts that the duros of Bogotá of 1627, which Mr. Taylor also mentions, do not appear in Spanish catalogs, and only those catalogs published after 1955.

The Calicó-Trigo catalog *Philip III to Isabel II*, publishes the years 1623 to 1633 (Nos. 474 to 484^a) for coins of Bogotá, that is, Santa Fe. LES's error must lie in the fact that he does not realize that Bogotá and Santa Fe are the same mint.

We also cannot agree with the assertion LES makes when he writes "Unfortunately we know from experience that varieties of cob coins of that period are very common, and even more so in the reign of Philip IV, since as much overseas as on the peninsula counterfeiters coined more than the mints."

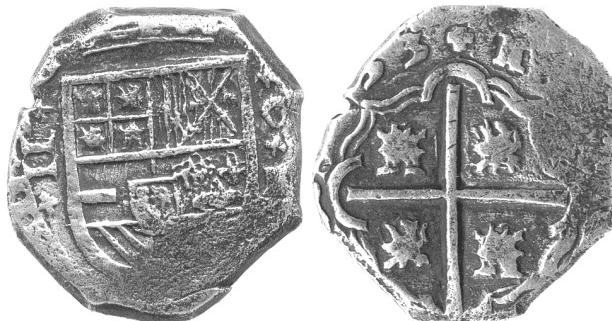
This is a grave assertion as it disparages the cob coinage series, but what is worse is that it lacks any foundation whatsoever. The contemporary counterfeiting of cobs was relatively abundant in its time but not nearly as much as is implied, and today the contemporary counterfeits are truly scarce, since over the course of the years they have been disappearing.

The eight real coin pictured below is from the 1985 edition of Calicó's *Monedas Españolas desde Juana y Carlos a Isabel II 1504 a 1868*.



Philip IV, (Cuenca) 8 Real 1633. Catalog #212
Currently attributed to Cartagena of the Indies

The eight real coins are known dated 1633 and 1634 with marks CE (C for Cartagena and E the assayer mark, currently unidentified). Other denominations of CE marked coins were also recovered from the *Concepción* shipwreck, including the two real illustrated below.



(Enlarged ×1.5)
Philip IV, Cartagena 2 Real 1633

NI

Frederick V Elector Palatine and Elizabeth Stuart
Herman Blanton NI #LM115



UBS Auction 65, Lot 189

Silver medal (1613), by Jan de Bommaert; on the marriage of Frederick V to Elizabeth of Great Britain. Medal within a fine filigreed mount, 4 pearls and four red stones symmetrically arranged around. **Obverse:** "FRID COM PAL R S ROM IMP ELECTOR" Bust of Frederick nearly facing with head turned right. Medalist's mark I.D.B. **Reverse:** "ELISAB D G C PAL R S R IMP ELEC FIL R MAGN BRIT" Bust of Elizabeth nearly facing with head left, wearing jeweled necklace, hairpiece and earrings. Medalist's mark I.D.B, mass 25.17 grams.

Elizabeth Stuart was a progenitor of the Hanoverian monarchs of England, from George I until the present day. Elizabeth was born in 1596, the daughter of James VI of Scotland (later James I of England) and Anne of Denmark; she was sister to Charles I of England, who lost his head in 1649 during the time of the English Civil War.

In 1613 Elizabeth married Frederick V, who was an Elector of the Holy Roman Empire. In 1619, Frederick was offered and accepted the crown of Bohemia, but his rule was brief, and Elizabeth became known as the "Winter Queen." Her Catholic neighbors correctly boasted that she and her husband would be defeated by spring.

Driven into exile, the couple took up residence in The Hague, and Frederick died in 1632. Elizabeth remained in Holland even after her son, Charles II Louis, regained his father's electorship in 1648. Following the Restoration of the British monarchy, she traveled to London to visit her nephew, King Charles II, and died while there. Her daughter was known later as Sophia of Hanover; pursuant to the English Act of

Settlement 1701, the Electress Sophia and her issue were made heirs to the English (later British) throne.

Frederick V was the son and heir of Frederick IV and of Louise Juliana von Orange-Nassau, the daughter of William I of Orange and Charlotte de Bourbon-Monpensier. He succeeded his father as Elector of the Rhenish Palatinate in the Holy Roman Empire in 1610. In 1619 the Protestant estates of Bohemia rebelled against the Roman Catholic Holy Roman Emperor Ferdinand II and offered the crown of Bohemia to Frederick, selecting him since he was an influential member of the Protestant Union, an organization founded by his father for the protection of Protestants in the Empire.

Frederick duly accepted the crown, an act that is frequently cited as the final impetus for the outbreak of the Thirty Years' War, but his allies in the Protestant Union failed to support him militarily by signing the Treaty of Ulm (1620). His brief reign as King of Bohemia ended with his defeat at the Battle of White Mountain on November 8, 1620—a year and four days after his coronation. This earned him the derisive nickname of "the Winter King." After this battle, the Imperial forces invaded Frederick's Palatinate lands and he had to flee to Holland in 1622. An Imperial edict formally deprived him of the Palatinate in 1623. He lived the rest of his life in exile with his wife and family, mostly at The Hague, before passing away in Mainz in 1632.



UBS

**UBS Auction 65, Lot 190
(Enlarged ×1.5)**

As lot 189 except un-mounted, mass 12.48 grams

References:

UBS, 2006. *Sammlung Pfalz-Kurlinie und Nebenlinien, 65. Auktion*. Zürich.
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elizabeth_of_Bohemia
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frederick_V,_Elector_Palatine

English Coin Types: A Continuing Series

The Tudor Testoons

Howard L. Ford NI #LM90

The Welsh family of the Tudors, who ruled England from 1485 to 1603, providing the country with three kings and two queens, made more innovations in silver coin designs, types and denominations than had been made by all the other monarchs of the previous 300 years. The first of the Tudors, Henry VII, began to rule late in the medieval period but lived long enough to enter the Renaissance. His first coins showed the typical medieval design with the portrait of the King facing front, but shortly after 1500 the portrait was redesigned to show Henry in profile facing right, a design used frequently in Continental Europe during the Renaissance.

In the decades of the fifteenth century, the price of silver increased dramatically and the size of silver coins decreased in proportion. But as trade with the Continent increased, the need for large silver coins also grew. The Italians had a *Testone* and the French had a *Teston*. Both of these were fairly large silver coins, large enough to show a detailed portrait of the ruler. And, in fact, they were specifically planned as portrait coins because both trace their origin to the Latin *testa*, the word for "head." The English decided to attempt to make a similar coin during the latter part of the reign of Henry VII, in the period of his Profile Coinage, which began in 1502. They called it a "Testoon." Its large size is indicated by the fact that until it was produced, England's largest silver coin had been the groat, a coin equal in value to four pennies; the Testoon was to be three times the weight of Henry's groats! Very few exist today, so few in fact that many argue that they were never intended for circulation, but were simply trial strikes or patterns. However, three varieties are known, so it would appear that Henry was quite serious about issuing large high-quality silver coins for his people. For modern collectors, the pieces are extraordinarily expensive.



Henry VII

The head is shown in profile facing right, and it is a realistic portrayal of the ruler's appearance.

On the three different varieties he will be called "HENRIC," "HENRIC SEPTEM," or "HENRIC VII." The legends state that he is by the Grace of God King of England and France. On the reverse we see the king's shield with a long cross over it. The legend is the same as had been used on groats ever since Edward III began to make them about 150 years earlier; although abbreviated to just "POSUI DEUM ADIVTOE MEU," it means "I have made God my helper."

The testoon was reintroduced much later, during the reign of Henry VIII, in his Third Coinage of 1544-1547; this time it was produced in larger numbers and it met with some limited success. The English people were never quick to accept change in their coinage; anything new was to be viewed with suspicion because the public had been abused for centuries by corrupt moneyers. However, the testoon did at least survive.



Henry VIII

The type shows the King facing forward on the obverse. The legend identifies him as "HENRIC VIII" by the Grace of God King of England, France and Ireland, with the mintmarks being one lis or two lis or a pellet in an annulet(a circle). In a variety of this issue, he is called "HENRIC 8," and the only mintmarks used were one lis and the pellet in annulet. Both varieties were struck in London at the Tower Mint. On the reverse, a large crowned Rose appears in the center, with a crowned "H" to the left and a crowned "R" to the right, another very new design on English silver. The reverse legend means the same as on his father's testoons, but the last two words are spelled out in full: "ADIVITOREM MEUM."

Testoons were also produced at Bristol, but whether before or after Henry's death is uncertain. The obverse differs only in the absence of mintmarks, but the reverse legend is very different--"CIVITAS BRISTOLLIE," identifying the city of Bristol, and a "WS" mintmark.

Another issue came from the Southwark Mint in London, and this is definitely a posthumous production, struck after 1547. The obverse dies used were identical to those from the London Mint and may even have been the very same dies. On these the King is always identified as "HENRIC 8," and the mintmark will be either an "S" or an "E." The reverse says "CIVITAS LONDON." No mintmarks appear. The fact that the Testoon was struck by one provincial mint and by a London mint other than the Tower--plus the fact that it continued to be struck after Henry's death--would seem to indicate a growing acceptance of the type by the people.

The testoons of Henry VIII are also quite expensive, running around \$2,000 for a decent specimen; but his father's testoons cost perhaps as much as ten times that amount.

Henry's son and successor, young Edward VI, evidently had very good advisors where money matters were concerned, and he needed them, because Henry's wastefulness had left the treasury in a very bad situation. The new regime could not immediately change everything about the coinage, of course, so Henry's inadequate

groats and pennies continued for a time. But soon, the boy king and his intelligent administrators made many right decisions. While improving the quality of the smaller silver coins, they also decided to continue the testoon, although they used a different term for this large silver coin. Since it was three times the value of a groat, which was actually a fourpence, this made the testoon worth twelve pence, and that is, in effect, a shilling—and that is what Edward's people called the coin, and that is the term used ever since (Robert Friedberg, *Coins of the British World*. New York: The Coin and Currency Institute, 1962, pp. 34-35; Richard Lobel and others, *Coincraft's 2000 Standard Catalogue of English and UK Coins 1066 to Date*. London: Coincraft, 1999, pp. 225-226).



Ariadne: The Last and First Empress

Howard L. Ford NI #LM90

Ariadne was the widow of Zeno the Isaurian, who, as the emperor in Constantinople, capital of the eastern part of the Roman Empire, was invited to also rule the western part of the Roman Empire, and is therefore often considered to be the last emperor of the Roman Empire in the West. When he died in AD 491, Ariadne was allowed to choose his successor; and she elevated a minor court official in Constantinople, Anastasius, to be emperor, but he would rule only in the East. Although he was already rather far advanced in years at this time, she later married him, primarily, we may suppose, to strengthen his position as emperor by making him the husband of the woman who had been the wife of the preceding emperor. Anastasius ruled for twenty-seven years, outliving Ariadne by about three years and having a fairly successful reign. His achievements in reforming the coinage, particularly the bronze issues, created a distinct break with coins minted in the West, so that in numismatics, he is certainly the first true Byzantine Emperor (David Sear, *Byzantine Coins and Their Values*. London: Seaby, p. 33). Thus, Ariadne could be considered the last Roman Empress in the West and the first Byzantine Empress in the East.



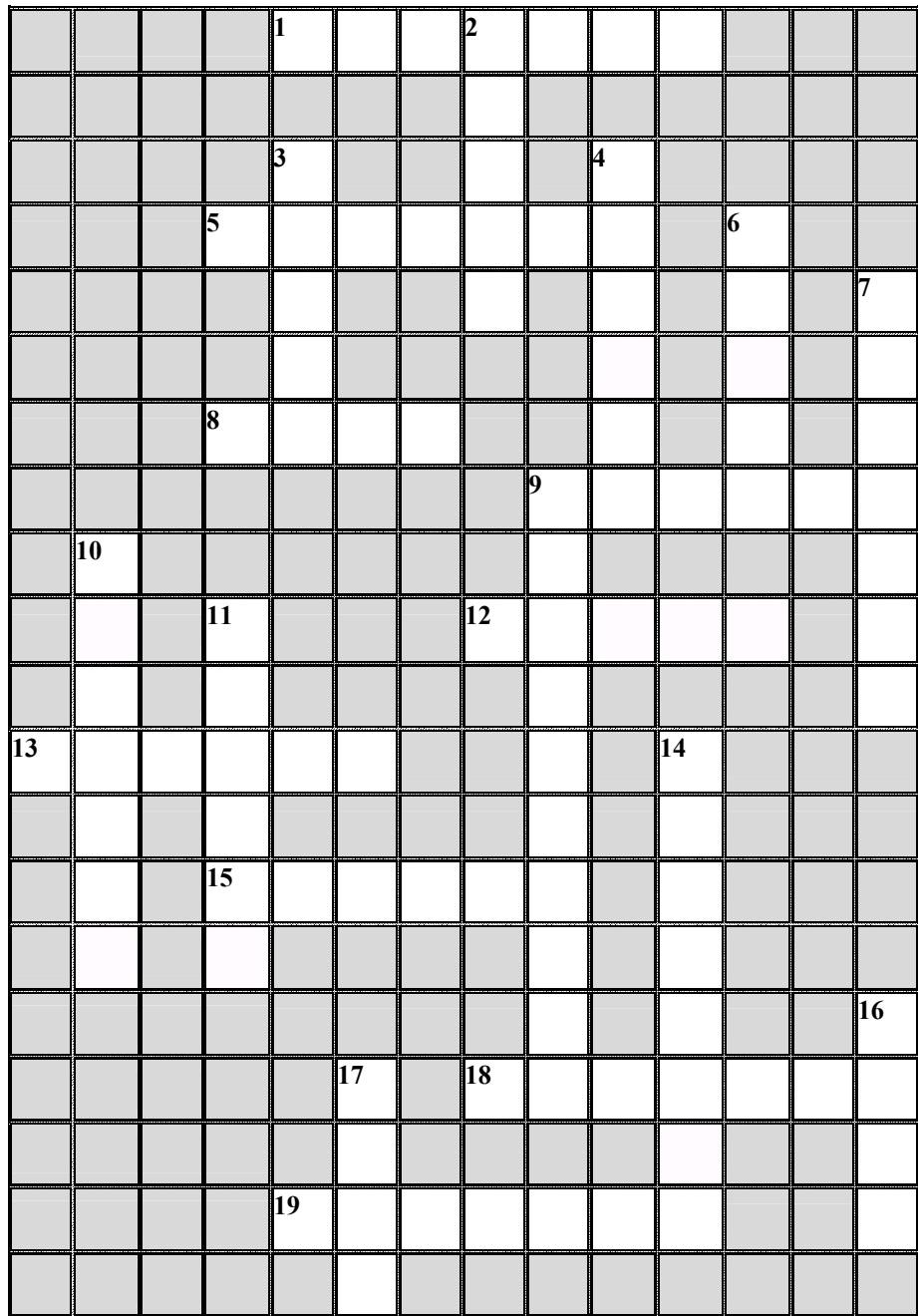
Brass and Bronze

Howard L. Ford NI #LM90

Brass is essentially an alloy of copper and zinc. Bronze is basically an alloy of copper and tin. In both cases small amounts of other metals may be included in the alloys. For instance, the British brass 3 Pence planned for Edward VIII in 1937 and then continued for George VI and Elizabeth II, contained 79% copper, 20% zinc, and 1% nickel. The bronze Pennies of Queen Victoria made in 1860 and after, had 95% copper, 4% tin, and 1% zinc. This is probably very close to the mixture used at the Philadelphia Mint in 1864 for both the bronze Indian Head Cent and Two-Cent Pieces. There the alloy was recorded as consisting of 95% copper and 5% tin and zinc.



Crossword Puzzle
 All answers can be found in first quarter 2007 (Jan-Mar) NI Bulletins.



DOWN

2. Introduced the ruble
3. Peruvian mint city
4. 1770 eight real discovered here
6. Issued Bethune coin
7. Multiple of denarius
9. Roman Republican family
10. Norman _____ coins
11. Philippine Leper Colony
14. Not worth a penny, Henry III
16. Elder partner on 1519 wedding thaler
17. Goto or Joze package

ACROSS

1. One of the Junos
5. Eight Real Compendium author
8. Juno headdress _____ skin
9. Issued Bethune coin
12. Silver unit of measure (singular)
13. Spanish king
15. Co-author of Japanese wraps article
18. Author 400 years ago
19. German mint city

Member Notices

We received several responses to the attribution assistance request by Bill Mullan in the March edition of the NI Bulletin, p. 53. While not all are printed here, each is appreciated.

Saudi Arabian 1/2 Ghirsh dated AH1344 year 2, KM A3, circa 1926. This coin was struck while Abd al Aziz bin Saud was technically King of Hejaz and Sultan of Nejd in the time after his conquest of Mecca and before the unified Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was formed. These coins almost always occur in high grade and it is believed they were quickly replaced with new copper-nickel types struck at the Royal Mint in England.

Scott Cordry

This coin has caused Krause catalogue editors endless confusion, and Bob Reis tells me that their early Saudi listings are still a mess. In my old 1990 edition of the *Standard Catalogue of World Coins*, it's listed as KM 3 under "regular coinage" under Nejd in the Saudi Arabia section (XF is the highest grade priced = \$25), with the note "Struck at occupied Mecca, Hejaz Mint by Ibn Sa'ud while establishing his kingdom." The listing is the same in the 1996 edition, but the price is up to \$40 for an XF. In the 2007 edition, it appears to be listed (I'm not certain because there's no photo of the coin in this edition, and it's listed as bronze rather than brass) as KM #A3 under "transitional coinage" under Hejaz & Nejd ("Kingdom and Sultanate," i.e., A'bd alAziz ibn Sa'ud as King of Hejaz and Sultan of the Nejd) in the Saudi Arabia section (now up to \$75 for an XF - btw, Bill's coin looks XF or better, maybe even Unc, in which case it's quite valuable).

While this listing is probably historically correct, it's a bit counter-intuitive because the coin's inscription reads (around the top over the denomination numeral) "*zarb fiy alHejaz*" (= the minting in the Hejaz), and does not mention the Nejd (unless it's part of the *toughra*). That part of the inscription is completed by "*sanat*" (= "year," below the numerals) 1344 (anno hijri = AD 1926 - there are two little loops at the top of the second I, showing it's a 3). That's the "accession date," when Ibn Sa'ud took the title of King of Hejaz. That date is to be combined with the "regnal date" – "*sanat 2*" below the toughra on the other side for the date of minting being more or less the equivalent of 1927. The inscription at the bottom below the fraction is "*ghirsh nisf*" (= half piastre). To the right of the toughra it reads "Ibn Sa'ud."

It would seem logical to list this series, including the 1343 dated KM 1 through 2.2, under Hejaz, rather than Hejaz & Nejd (in the current edition) or under Nejd (in the older editions). The AH1346 (1928) and AH1348 (1930) dated coinage is now listed under "Hejaz & Nejd Sultanate, Kingdom," but the actual inscriptions on the coins (without any reference to "Sultan" or "Sultanate") correspond to the older listings as [Kingdom of] "Hejaz, Nejd and Dependencies." The AH1344 (1926) "regular coinage," naming A'bd alA'ziz ibn Sa'ud as "King of the Hejaz and Sultan of the Nejd" is now listed more correctly as "Hejaz & Nejd, Kingdom and Sultanate," but he's named only "*alMalik*" (= "king") on the coins now listed under "Hejaz & Nejd Sultanate, Kingdom."

Greg Franck-Weiby

Continued on page 109